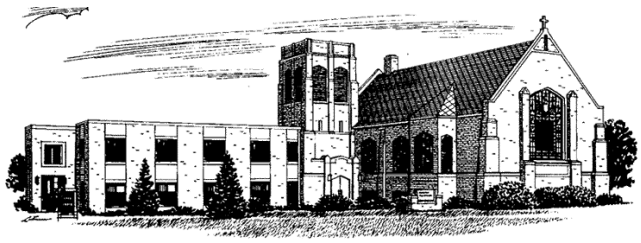


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary
Danielle Hohman, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

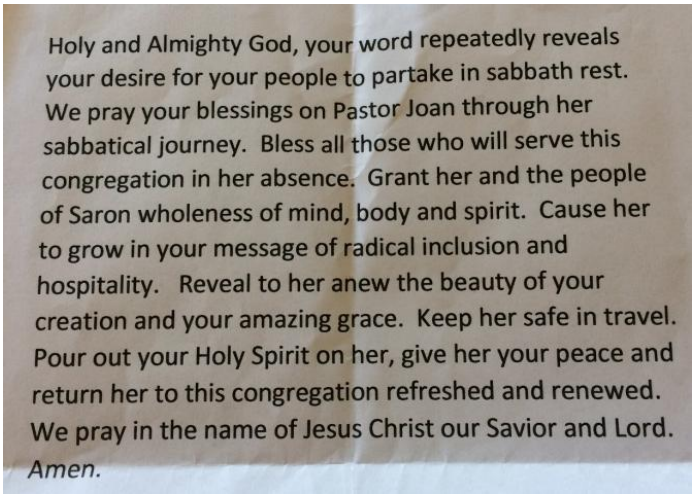
Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

August 2017

I've been back from my sabbatical and "on the job" about 7 hours. In the weeks ahead you will hear and read more about this time. In the meantime, here are a couple of initial observations. First, there were very, very few glitches while I was gone. Folks pitched in, shared gifts, and took responsibility as needed. Thank you for being the faithful people God called you to be. I pray those gifts will continue to be shared in the months ahead. Second, today's comments reflect the joy of your hearing many and varying voices proclaim the Gospel each Sunday. Thank you to all those who supplied, and to Pastor David Slater for serving as anchor. Third, as I re-read today the prayer offered upon my departure (see below), I am glad to report that Sabbath rest happened, experiences of radical inclusion and hospitality were abundant, the beauty of creation enjoyed, and God's amazing grace was revealed. Fourth, for those who knew our daughter was getting married during this time, it was a beautiful celebration. So much happiness!! I may even show you some pictures if you ask (or even if you don't!)

I look forward to sharing more with you in formal and informal ways.

Pastor Joan


Holy and Almighty God, your word repeatedly reveals your desire for your people to partake in sabbath rest. We pray your blessings on Pastor Joan through her sabbatical journey. Bless all those who will serve this congregation in her absence. Grant her and the people of Saron wholeness of mind, body and spirit. Cause her to grow in your message of radical inclusion and hospitality. Reveal to her anew the beauty of your creation and your amazing grace. Keep her safe in travel. Pour out your Holy Spirit on her, give her your peace and return her to this congregation refreshed and renewed. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Weds afternoon
Call for other times/changes

When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.

Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in August 2017

Aug. 1 – Bradley Gorman
3 - Tim Standen
4 – Richard Bell
Linda Huff
5 - Brian Hohman
Emma Dipert
7 - Ed Standen
9 – Benjamin Baumgartner
Mary Smart
14 - Maggie Hammer
15 – David Bailey
16 - Tedd Gorman
22 - Irma Gorman
23 – Andrew Huff
24 –Rebecca (Fortenbacher) Sherry
Paula Risetter
27 - Pamela Olson
Elizabeth Schmuhl
28 - Megan Stacey

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In August 2017

Aug. 1 – Matthew and Laurel Gacek
3 - David and Dana Riley
6 - Jerry and Ruth Stelling
7 – Brad and Marilyn Frey
Victor and Nicole Coar
8 - Richard and Rosemary Bell
Erik and Brittany (Ondraka) Hansen
14 - Donald and Eloise Moely
15 – John and T. J. Koehler
20 – David and Shelly Stankiewicz
24 – Jack and Cheryl Houser

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Aug 6 –
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday Aug 13 –
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday Aug 20 –
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sunday Aug 27 –
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Nursery Help Needed
We always welcome more volunteers for the nursery. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

A word from Father Martin
In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation celebrated this year, we hear a word attributed to Father Martin:

July 30
Pray, and let God worry.

August 6
The fewer the words, the better the prayer.

August 13
Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God.

August 20
Nothing good ever comes of violence.

August 27
You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
A "Color Fest" comes to Saron July 31-August 3. It will take place from 6:30-8:30 PM; ages Kdg – 5th grade, completed. Invite a friend! For more information contact Kristen Harper or Amanda Bradley

Tuesday Mornings at the Beach
Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! Bring your travel cup of coffee or tea, a jacket, and your Bible for a gathering on Tuesday mornings at 8:30, all summer. We meet at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact Pastor Oleson.

Wednesday Bible Study
Join us again in the Fall.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle - Will not meet in August
The next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at the home of Deanna Deaton. The study leader will be Linda Pater.

Saron Church Women – Thanks everyone who participated in the Rummage Sale held on June 10. We applaud those who donated items, helped set up, priced, worked the day of the sale, donated lunch, boxed left-over items, cleaned up, and moved tables. Net sales, after newspaper ad expenses, totaled 1,623.00. Proceeds will be equally divided between Samaritas (Lutheran Social Services of Michigan/ LSSM) and Mosaic of Benton Harbor. **Thanks, again, everyone!**

SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Once again, Saron members and friends can take advantage of the beauty of Lake Michigan as a setting for informal summer worship. Once a month – August 16, is the last Wednesday night -- we will gather at Lion's Park Beach for a picnic supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by worship at 7:00 p.m. The church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments, chips, and lemonade. Others are

invited to bring a dish to share. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church with David Slater leading us in our studies. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a meal and fellowship. The Bible Study will meet each week through the summer and fall until its Advent break. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786 or David Slater at 269-281-0848.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Ephesus group will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a German -- Luther day on August 13. We will meet at Houser's at 4:15, carpool to Moser's Austrian cafe in New Carlisle, Indiana for dinner, and then return to Houser's to watch the film "Luther." If you'd like to be part of this outing, please contact Cheryl so your name(s) can be added to the reservation list for the restaurant.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

There will be NO Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast during the summer months, we will resume again in October.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

We will resume our monthly meetings on Sunday, October 1st. Here are the titles of the first four books we will be reading.

October 1, 2017	A Gentleman in Moscow, by Amor Towles
November 5, 2017	Today Will Be Different, by Maria Semple
December 3, 2017	News of the World, by Paulette Jiles
February 11, 2018	Lilac Girls, by Martha Hall Kelly

Mark these dates, read the book(s) that interest you, and come be a part of our lively discussions. Questions? Contact Kathy Cowall, (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com. " Here's to books, the cheapest vacation you can buy." (Charlaine Harris, author)

Support

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STOCK DONATIONS

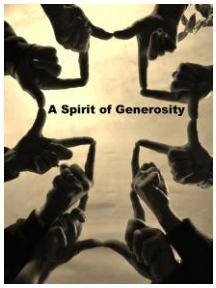
Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



....with glad and generous hearts, praising God .... Acts 2:46c

"The world is intentional about its message *to our kids, teens and households....the world says that using money to get more things is best.*

What does the Bible Say?

The Bible says we can be happy when we are thankful for what we have. In Philippians 4:11 it says, "For I have learned how to get along happily whether I have much or little." So, the world says that using money to get more things is best. **But is getting best?** God is generous to us by giving us so many things. We should give generously back to God. It all belongs to God anyway. We are just taking care of it for God." **The Generosity Project September 2014 p.10**

Outreach

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen-

On June 22 Saron members served 133 meals. It was wonderful having 4 of Saron's youth helping out - Carter and Danielle Hohman, and Molly and Nolan Becker. You must be 12 years old to work in the SK kitchen. Our other volunteers were Keith Stevens, Ruth Ball, Coanne Hohman, Marlene Schalon, a great way to know each other better! Cookie bakers in June were Kathy Cowall, Karen Johnson and Denise Cook, mmmmmm GOOD!! God's Work.Our Hands, Thank you so much, Jan Stevens

Keith & Jan working in the Soup Kitchen

Soup Kitchen workers from Saron

LARGE or SMALL cans of fruit, for use at the Soup Kitchen, are always needed.
Thank you very much, Jan Stevens

SCHOOL SUPPLIES-

Hopefully you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer! Before we know it school will be starting! If you have looked in the local stores, school supplies are all ready on sale. This year Saron will be collecting school supplies for Lybrook Elementary School in Eau Claire. Supplies may be donated through September 10. A basket is in the narthex. Listed below are much needed items:

Dry erase markers, crayons, pencils, glue sticks, spiral notebooks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex(tissue), erasers, paper towel, disinfecting wipes, colored pencils, post it notes, stickers. Let's help these students start off the school year with the supplies they need. Thank you, Outreach

Keep Your Eyes Open

If you happen to come across glasses that you no longer use or they have gone out of style, please consider bringing them into Saron and putting them into the Lions Eye Glass box, in the Narthex. They can be reused by someone who needs them! Thank you, St. Joseph Township Lions

SW MI Human Trafficking Task Force

Saron can help raise funds for training our medical, law enforcement and hotel management teams, by purchasing a bar of soap! The soap is called 'Sweet Smell of Surviving". The cost is $6.00 a bar or 2 bars for $10.00. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE. The soap is available in the narthex.

Thank you for supporting this Outreach opportunity. Any questions, ask Jan Stevens

Blossomland Crop Walk -

Thank you to all who supported the annual BLOSSOMLAND CROP WALK, for hunger. Saron contributed $1,482.00 and the and total amount collected from the community is $35,006.30!!! What a great way to show "God's Work. Our Hands" and feet!

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday is September 10
If you would like to order a short sleeve T shirt, with SARON , on the back, I will be taking orders through August 13. The cost is $10.00. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex, on the kiosk.
Thank you, Jan Stevens, call me if you have a question.

FACEBOOK
We love to share pictures of Saron's ministry on our Facebook page and we get great feedback. It is our practice not to put names with the pictures. If you prefer your family member's picture not to be posted, please let us know, so that we can honor that request.

MEET ME AT THE FREEZER
Freezer meals are available , in the dining room freezer. If you have a neighbor, friend, relative or yourself who needs a "helping hand " in the kitchen, please take a meal. A visit, phone call, or a meal are a great way to show you care! "God's Work. Our Hands" Thank you, Outreach Committee

Facilities
Lawn Mowers Needed – There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers to mow the yards instead of hiring that work out saved the church an estimated $1,100.00 in expenses last year. Please sign-up to help the church save money and keep our grounds looking good. The church has its own lawn mower. Even some high school members could mow with direction from parents. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED –
Please save your used ink cartridges as it saves the church money in office supplies, is a good fellowship opportunity as well as helping to maintain God's house. There is a collection box in the Narthex. Please consider helping and if you have any questions talk to Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

Council News
Financial Secretary News
We welcome Nanci who plans to work in the office on Wednesday afternoons, beginning at approximately 2:30. You can reach Nanci at the office during that time. She is also open to phone calls at 269/845-2595 or an e-mail at **nanci0126@yahoo.com**

Attendance Record	
06/25/2017	*65*
07/02/2017	*78*
07/09/2717	*58*
07/16/2017	*73*
07/23/2017	*61*

Saron's Council Members – 2017
Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth*
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Support*
Tyler Cook (269-930-2810) – Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Dorcas Circle gathers for a luncheon at the Willows

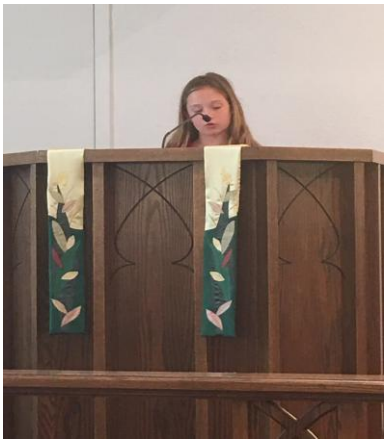
Rev. Mike Kemper

Communion at Saron

Rev. David Slater

Savannah Talbert reading lesson

Brook Henderson acolytes



Hailey Talbert reading the lessons

Brad Frey giving life-saving blood

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

August 2017

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Saron
August Volunteer Schedule

	Aug. 6 *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*	***Aug. 13*** *Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*	***Aug. 20*** *Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*	***Aug. 27*** *Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost*
	9:30	***9:30***	**9:30**	***9:30***
Assisting minister	Marilyn Frey	Tyler Cook	Sue Rood	Dennis Lundgren
Reader/ Intinction	Laurel Gacek	Denise Cook	Wendy Subrin	Dan Fortenbacher
Ushers	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Dave and Kathie Bradley	Pat Breyen and Rebecca Sebrechts	Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolytes				
Nursery Assistant	Allison Rood	Lindsay Gaspari	Krin Jurgensen	Mary Alice Brunner
Bldg. close	Dave and Kathie Bradley	Ken Ark	Keith and Jan Stevens	Joseph and Katherine Ulrey
Snacks				
Flowers	Frey's and Hinckley	Matt & Laurel Gacek	Pat Breyen	Elizabeth Schmuhl
Mowing	Weekend of July 31. Bray Frey	Weekend of Aug. 14 The Holman's	Weekend of Aug. 21	Weekend of Aug. 28

August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday with Communion by intinction	11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 6:30 p.m Vacation Bible School starts	**1** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. VBS	**2** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:30 p.m Vacation Bible School	**3** 6:30 p.m Vacation Bible School last night	**4**	5
6 9:30 a.m Worship	**7** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**8** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**9** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**10**	**11**	12
13 9:30 a.m Worship	**14** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Newsletter Articles due	**15** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 4:00 p.m. Vasa 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**16** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Summer Beach picnic supper 7:00 p.m. Worship	**17**	**18**	19
20 9:30 a.m Worship	**21** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	**22** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**23** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**24** 9:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen	**25**	26
27 9:30 a.m Worship	**28** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**29** 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**30** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**31**		